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LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Gorazde continues to be under attack despite the fact that it has been declared a "safe area". However, those who have assumed responsibility under Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) to protect the safe areas are not fulfilling this responsibility. At the same time, those people in Gorazde with the right and the obligation to defend their population are losing the battle, not for lack of resolve but for the lack of defensive weapons to defend their homes and their lives. These two realities cannot coexist if the population of Gorazde is to survive.

The moderate success of the international community in alleviating the situation in Sarajevo does not absolve it from the equally valid responsibility to confront aggression and protect the other safe areas, even when they seem to have been out of its immediate focus.

Those with the responsibility to protect the safe areas have failed to do so. We now urgently renew a demand that the Council clarify that the arms embargo under Security Council resolution 713 (1991) does not apply to the defence forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative